



NEWS

**For Immediate Release
August 21, 2002**

**Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Documents
Available for UMTRA Ground Water Project Site at Gunnison, Colorado**

(Grand Junction, CO)—The U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO) announces the availability of the final *Environmental Assessment of Ground Water Compliance at the Gunnison, Colorado, UMTRA Project Site* and the *Finding of No Significant Impact, Ground Water Compliance at the Gunnison, Colorado, Uranium Mill Tailings Site*. The *Environmental Assessment* identifies the proposed ground-water compliance strategy for the former uranium-ore processing site near Gunnison. The *Finding of No Significant Impact* states that no significant adverse environmental impacts will occur from the proposed ground-water cleanup strategy and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

The *Environmental Assessment* states that DOE plans a passive ground-water remediation strategy through natural flushing coupled with institutional controls and continued monitoring to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ground-water standards. Institutional controls protect public health and the environment by limiting access to a contaminated medium, in this case ground water at the former processing site and between the site and the Gunnison River. A computer model supports the finding that natural ground water movement and geochemical processes will meet the regulatory requirement for natural flushing of constituents in the alluvial aquifer within a 100-year timeframe. The main contaminant in the ground water is natural uranium.

Reference copies of the *Environmental Assessment* and the *Finding of No Significant Impact* will be placed in the Ann Zugelder Public Library in Gunnison; the Leslie J. Savage Library at Western State College in Gunnison; the Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction, Colorado; and the DOE–GJO Public Reading Room in Grand Junction by August 28, 2002.

(More)

The documents will also be available on the DOE-GJO website at www.gjo.doe.gov/ugw/sites/co/gunnison/gunnison.htm. Copies may be requested by contacting DOE-GJO toll-free at 1-800-399-5618.

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